

What is claimed is:

1. A method of manufacturing a polarizing glass article comprising the steps of:

melting a glass batch containing a halide capable of precipitating silver or copper halide;

cooling and shaping the melt into a glass article;

ion-exchanging silver or copper metal into the surface of the glass article;

subjecting the glass article to an elevated temperature for a period of time sufficient to generate and precipitate silver or copper halide crystals in a surface layer of the glass;

elongating the glass article under stress at a temperature above the annealing point of the glass to elongate the crystals in the direction of the stress; and

exposing the elongated glass article to a reducing atmosphere at an elevated temperature to initiate reduction of at least a portion of the silver or copper halide crystals to silver metal.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the article contains a central layer containing essentially no silver or copper halide crystals.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the surface layer is less than 50 microns thick.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the surface layer is less than 10 microns thick.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the concentration of silver or copper metal in the surface layer is greater than 0.1% by weight.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the concentration of silver or copper metal in the surface layer is greater than 0.5% by weight.

7. A polarizing glass article made by the method of claim 1.

8. A polarizing glass article comprising a glass having two outer layers containing elongated copper or silver metal particles and a central layer containing essentially no copper or silver halide crystals.

9. The article of claim 8, wherein the concentration of silver or copper metal is greater than 0.5% by weight.

10. The article of claim 9, wherein the surface layer is less than 10 microns thick.